

should not be deported. In other words, let them go.

As a result of Washington's inaction, several States have been burdened with the costs of illegal entry, from health care to incarceration costs. Arizona, South Carolina, Utah, Georgia, and Indiana have been forced to do the job the Federal Government just won't do—protect the citizens from the costs of unlawful entry into America.

Arizona implemented a law that requires authorities to check the immigration status of anyone who is already legally detained for some offense and when there is a "reasonable suspicion" the person is in the country illegally. But the administration says not so fast, that immigration enforcement is their job.

They just refuse to do it.

It also seems the government is more interested in smuggling guns to Mexico under the botched Operation Fast and Furious than it is in preventing the smuggling of people and drugs into the United States. Now the Department of Justice has gone into the business of using taxpayer dollars to actually sue States for doing the job the Federal Government won't do. Yesterday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of *Arizona v. The United States*. Governor Brewer of Arizona has said, "Arizona and its people suffer from a serious problem without any realistic tools for addressing it."

The Federal Government leaves States with no other choice than to do the job the Federal Government refuses to do. If Arizona is not allowed to enforce immigration laws and if the Federal Government does not enforce immigration laws, then Arizona and other States will continue on a dangerous path to becoming lawless territories with rampant illegal entry. Ignoring laws and open-door policies will only entice more people to come to this country illegally instead of using the front door.

Now, I fully support legal entry into America, and my staff spends a lot of time helping people come to the United States legally. The immigration model we have is a mess, and it needs to be streamlined and more efficient; but people should come here the right way or not come at all. After all, it is the law.

But the defiant Attorney General has made it clear that he will continue his crusade against the States that try to crack down on illegal entry. Why? Because the States want to uphold the law. Meanwhile, sanctuary cities get a pass from the Federal Government for ignoring the law.

We hear the rhetoric that illegals are here to do the jobs Americans won't do. Now State after State is getting sued for doing a job the American Government won't do—protecting the security of the Nation and enforcing the law. Arizona had to enact this law to protect itself because the Federal Government doesn't adequately secure the border.

It is time for Washington to stop its war on the States and to join with the States in enforcing the law of the land. Hopefully, the Supreme Court will rule the Arizona law to be constitutional.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE CARIBBEAN BORDER INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, American citizens in the Caribbean are facing a security crisis. While the national murder rate has declined in recent decades, the number of homicides in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands remains unacceptably high. Since 2008, the murder rate in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands has been about five times the national average and about twice as high as that of any State.

Most of the murders committed in Puerto Rico and the USVI are linked to the drug trade. As Attorney General Holder and other officials have acknowledged, the Federal Government's effort to prevent traffickers from transporting drugs across our Nation's southwest border is causing traffickers to turn increasingly to the Caribbean to ship drugs into the United States. As the National Drug Intelligence Center recently observed, violence by traffickers in the two territories has "become indiscriminate, endangering the lives of . . . innocent bystanders."

In response to questions I posed, Attorney General Holder recently called drug-related violence in Puerto Rico and in the USVI a national security issue that we must confront. At my urging, Congress has also taken notice of the problem, directing Federal law enforcement agencies on three separate occasions to devote more attention to the Caribbean region.

According to briefings provided to my office, 70 to 80 percent of the cocaine that enters Puerto Rico is transported to the U.S. mainland. Because Puerto Rico is a U.S. jurisdiction, once drugs enter the island, they are easily delivered to the States through commercial airlines and container ships, without having to clear customs or having to otherwise undergo heightened scrutiny. Once in the States, these drugs destroy lives and communities in my colleagues' districts. So this is a problem of national, not simply regional, scope.

That said, the primary reason the Federal Government must do more to reduce drug trafficking in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands is that U.S. citizens in these two territories are dying in unprecedented numbers. Our Nation has devoted considerable resources in confronting drug gangs that are operating along the southwest border, and rightfully so. Yet Puerto Rico's murder rate is four to five times higher than that of any Southwest border State.

According to a recent piece in *The Washington Post*, since 2008 the island has received less than one-fifth of the funding that the Federal Government has provided to combat the drug trade and associated violence in Mexico and Central American nations.

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The number of authorized positions at key Federal law enforcement agencies in Puerto Rico is too low. The number of vacancies is too high. And interdiction assets, like planes and boats, are in short supply.

Since taking office, I have urged the Federal Government to devote resources to Puerto Rico at a level commensurate with the severity of the problem it faces. Specifically, I have asked the White House drug czar to establish a Caribbean border initiative modeled after the successful Southwest Border Initiative.

The time for half measures and piecemeal efforts has passed. What is needed instead is a well-planned, well-funded, well-executed, governmentwide strategy that will encompass all Federal agencies charged with fighting drug trafficking and related violence. To protect the lives of the U.S. citizens in the Caribbean and to reduce the flow of drugs headed to the States through that region, the Federal Government must make a commitment of resources to Puerto Rico and the USVI that is similar to the commitment it has made to the southwest border.

The challenge we face today is similar to the one we faced back in 1994. I was Puerto Rico's attorney general back then and lobbied successfully for Puerto Rico and the USVI to be federally designated as a high-intensity drug trafficking area, which contributed to a significant reduction in the island's violent crime rate. The problem has evolved over time, and the Federal response must evolve along with it. I will not rest until it does.

#### DIGGING OURSELVES OUT OF THIS RECESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Speaker, my message is simple and direct: Last month, this administration put yet another hold on implementing the Keystone pipeline project and adding tens of thousands of American jobs to our fragile economy. This decision is bad news for laborers in the great State of Minnesota and around the country who were eager to begin working on the project next year. If we do not approve this deal and put people back to work, the jobs and the oil will simply go another direction—such as China—and they will not be coming back to the United States.

What part of this bill just doesn't make sense to the folks in the White House and the Department of State?